

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02583 160957Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 115502

R 170945Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 139

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2583

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MV

SUBJ: CONTINUED STRAIN IN MALDIVES-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

REF: COLOMBO 2215 (NOTAL)

1. RECENT DIPLOMATIC SKIRMISH UNDERSCORES INCREASING STRAINS IN SRI LANKA-MALDIVIAN RELATIONS. MALDIVIAN EMBASSY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE AND FORMAL PROTEST TO GSL CITING "DISCOURTEOUS AND INDIFFERENT" TREATMENT OF THREE HIGH-RANKING MALDIVIAN OFFICIALS IN TRANSIT MADRAS TO MALE OCT 10, INCLUDING MINISTER OF FISHERIES AHAMED HILMY DIDI, FORMER GOM AMB TO COLOMBO. PROTEST DETAILS GSL OFFICIALS ALLEGED REFUSAL TO OFFER VISA PRIVILEGES AND AIRPORT COURTESIES TRADITIONALLY ACCORDED SUCH FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AND FOLLOWS PATTERN NOTED REFTEL.

2. MALDIVIAN EMBASSY AND TRADE REPRESENTATIVES RESIDENT COLOMBO HAVE RECENTLY INDICATED THEIR GOVT MAY RELOCATE PRINCIPAL MARITIME COMMERCIAL FACILITIES TO INDIA AND SINGAPORE, ESTABLISH DIRECT MALE-BOMBAY AIR SERVICE, AND RESTRUCTURE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

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AND EXPORT TIES SHICH NOW BENEFIT CREDIT-SHY GSL.

GOM EMBOFF TELLS US GOM IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING
ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC OFFICES IN BOTH NEW DELHI AND
BOMBAY. RECENT INCIDENT LIKELY TO FURTHER REINFORCE
GOM'S DETERMINATION TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON SRI LANKA.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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